

RED-CROSS WAR WORK IN FRANCE HAS WIDE BASIS

Report Shows Vastness of Relief Between June 1917 and June 1918.

ARMY DEFICIENCIES MET Organization Has 10,000 Hospital Beds in Use for American Soldiers.

In general the object of the Department of Military Affairs (of the Red Cross) is to help the allied soldier, and in the case of the United States Army to put ourselves at the disposal of every single individual in it, succoring the wounded, making life more comfortable for the well soldier, and in so joining forces with our organization in America that we can look after, as far as possible, the mental happiness of the soldier by relieving him of any mental troubles which he may have at home.

In other words, the object is to render to the United States soldier all of those services which the American people had the right to expect from us when they contributed to the American Red Cross. Our organization is planned to perform this duty in the most economical and effective manner.

The above, taken from its account of its first year's work in France, might be called the confession of faith of the American Red Cross. Its story, in so far as it is yet free to tell it, is contained in the report of the War Council made public yesterday. In reading it one must keep in mind that the report deals only with the "first year," between June 2, 1917, and June 2, 1918, and reserves for later publication all account of what it did from the beginning of the war to the present, which marked America's really heavy participation in the world war.

Vastness of Red Cross Work. But from the report at hand, which takes in only the first of the fighting by American troops, it is clear that the Red Cross has contributed a dollar here and a dollar there may learn upon what a vast scale of humanitarian enterprise the money contributed was expended.

How, in addition to backing up the nurses and other workers at the actual fighting front, he or she was in some small way of aid to the maimed, the homeless, the sick, little children and the aged, and how the "greatest mother in the world" lightened the lot of the fighters with a thousand big and little attentions and comforts.

The first nucleus of the organization began its overseas work when eighteen members, under the leadership of Major G. M. P. Murphy, sailed from New York on June 8, 1917.

"This date was previous to the sailing of any American troops for Europe and previous to the date of the first draft registration," says the Red Cross report. "The Red Cross at that time had not conducted its campaign for funds and the commission came to Europe for the purpose of being early on the ground and organizing the work which we knew was to come."

What that work was to be was only vaguely understood. "In general terms, it was the feeling of the commissioner and his assistants that our allies had been carrying on the war for approximately three years, that they had been going through a period of hardship never before seen in the world, that it was the desire of the American people to express through the agency of its Red Cross in a concrete and substantial manner its sympathy for the suffering caused by the war and its desire to bear its share of the burden in the future.

Reception in Paris. "On our arrival in Paris we were received in the most generous and broad minded way by the committee of the American Relief Administration. They stated to us their definite belief, now America was in the war, that all American effort should be coordinated under one head, and they turned over to the American Red Cross their organization equipment and personnel. This enabled the commission to get started at once, sooner than it would have been able to otherwise, and great thanks are due them for their attitude at the time.

"We established our offices at 5, Rue Franklin, Premier, and within a few weeks Mrs. Robert W. Bliss turned over to the Red Cross the distributing service which they had been conducting for the French hospitals since the beginning of the war, and the Surgical Dressings joined hands with us as surgical dressings branch of the society.

"Those three moves enabled the commission to begin its French work with a going organization and went a long way toward making its effort effective in the early days.

"Within a few weeks after our arrival we discussed with Gen. Pershing the work which lay before us, and it was his belief and desire that the American Red Cross was the agency through which the American people could, by relieving the suffering of our allies, express its sentiment. He felt that it would be many months before his army would be an effective fighting force and that the Red Cross must during those months carry the American flag in Europe.

"With this idea in view, we organized two departments: one, the department of civil affairs, whose duty it was to take up all the relief work in France which the Red Cross had been created by the war; the other department, the department of military affairs, should handle the Red Cross work with both the French and American armies.

"It has been through our organization that the French Red Cross has been able to continue the excellent work which it has done for so long without curtailing, and it is through the Red Cross that the families of the most needy soldiers of the French army have received help sufficient to carry them over some hard places in their lives. Almost every phase of the life in France has been touched and helped.

10,000 Beds Provided. "As to the American Army, the work has been enormous and is increasing. For the past month we were told that the Red Cross would not be expected to put up any hospitals in France. At the present moment the Red Cross has approximately 10,000 hospital beds operating for the American soldier. During one period of about two weeks 13,000 American soldiers went through Red Cross hospitals.

"Millions of dressings have been given out; thousands and thousands of splints to the American Army; supplies such as those mentioned above in large numbers; food, services in the hospitals and in the field in France where their families can be helped in case of trouble, letters to the families of those who are wounded or killed, and thousands and thousands of articles which the American soldier will never know came from his Red Cross. He has been helped by him in an instance of a time when the army was short of ether and was furnished 20,000 tins by the American Red Cross. "There is nothing spectacular about that sort of service, but it is fundamental in its help to the American soldier, and it has gone on every day in increasing amount.

Just as there are no soldiers who are not familiar with the "small comforts" of the Red Cross, its hot drinks and picture shows, its rest and entertainment huts and gifts of newspapers, books and tobacco, so there are few soldiers' mothers in the United States who do not know of its information and home services; how it has fed and kept track of prisoners in enemy camps, written the wounded soldier's letters home, seen to it that his wife or his mother received the allotment that he designed for her and solved all the hundred home problems arising from his absence at the front."

HEARST TILT AGAIN AT SENATE INQUIRY

Reed of Missouri and Alfred E. Becker Wrangle Until Adjournment.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Alfred L. Becker, Deputy Attorney-General of New York, and Senator James A. Reed (Mo.) spent another day wrangling before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee supposed to be investigating German propaganda. After the day's battle the committee adjourned over the holidays, Mr. Becker promising to return for another examination if needed.

To-day's exchanges started when Senator Reed renewed his effort to prove that Mr. Becker's efforts to unearth German propaganda were in reality aimed at "getting" William R. Hearst and at the same time boost his (Becker's) political fortunes.

Mr. Becker intimated broadly that he considered that the Senator was representing Mr. Hearst. "Any one who makes such a charge is a common scoundrel!" Senator Reed declared heatedly. "Senator Reed framed a long question designed to show that Mr. Becker had used his position to conduct an investigation by which he would benefit politically, but was interrupted by Mr. Becker remarking: 'I hope all the Hearst reporters are taking this down.'"

Later Mr. Becker, in answer to one of the Senator's questions, said that he must "hold a brief for some one." "Do you mean to say that I hold a brief for Mr. Hearst?" the Senator demanded.

"Not for Mr. Hearst—from Mr. Hearst," was the answer. "Senator Reed framed a long question in taking part in the hearings, which until then had remained a mystery. 'I know Mr. Hearst solely as a newspaper man,' said the Senator. 'I was convinced, though, that there was a need and deliberate determination to try to fasten something akin to treason on a man by what I believed to be scraps of evidence put together in a dishonest manner. I cross-examined this gentleman'—indicating Mr. Becker—"because I happened to know he put the information to political use. I would do the same thing for the editor of the New York World or the editor of the New York Times or a common street cleaner. That is my only interest in being here, and any man who insinuates that it goes beyond that is a common scoundrel."

"The account covers roughly the period up to the beginning of 1918, but takes small account of what was perhaps the Red Cross's greatest accomplishment, namely, the provision it was making for the future. The foresight used from the beginning did not produce the full effects until the summer of 1918, when in the great emergencies arising from the entry of American troops into active warfare the American Red Cross was able to furnish quickly the hospitalization and supplies without which a large portion of the American soldiers would have suffered gravely.

"With the movement of American troops into more central sectors it became evident to Red Cross officials that there might be a demand for more hospital beds than were available in Paris. Early in May therefore the Red Cross began the erection of American Red Cross Military Hospital No. 5 at Auteuil, intended originally for light wounded and simple medical cases. But by May 20 the capacity of this hospital, composed of basement tents containing 600 beds, became taxed and it was immediately necessary to increase the capacity to 1,000 beds, which was done within a month from the date on which the hospital was started.

Three Evacuation Hospitals. "Meanwhile work of the most vital importance had been accomplished in the establishment at Evreux, Jully and Jouy-sur-Morin of three evacuation hospitals. The Beauvais hospital was staffed by American Red Cross personnel, and while admirable speed was shown in getting ready this in-

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RADICALS MAY MEET DEFEAT AT POLLS

Socialists Hope at Best Only for a Very Small Majority.

REPUBLIC MONTHS OFF

Bolshevikism Said to Be Confined Chiefly to North and Coast Cities.

By CHARLES TOWER.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times Service. Copyright, 1918; all rights reserved. THE HAGUE, Dec. 21.—The result of the elections to the National Assembly which are expected about January 19 is regarded as uncertain by all classes in Germany. From opinions of all sorts and conditions of people in western Germany it would appear the Socialists can hope at best, for a very small majority and even they may be defeated.

It is even confirmed that the Socialists do not believe in the possibility of a genuinely Socialist Government and the probable course of events is the extension of interim of authority to Herr Ebert until the National Assembly establishes a new constitution and arranges for the election of a first President of a republic. This may take weeks or months.

Opinion in western Germany seems to favor the assembly meeting in Berlin because a temporary Government would have to be transferred to Frankfurt if the assembly is held there, and in the meantime Dr. Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, Spartacist leaders, would be left to wreak havoc in Berlin. Dr. Liebknecht's insane scheme for all round pillage is shared by very few of his supporters.

German Bolshevism is mixed. The principal strongholds are Dusseldorf, Hanover, Brunswick and the coast towns. Numerous persons still hope for a revolutionary movement in the Entente countries. They appear to consider a proletarian revolution occurring in France and a republican revolution is fairly hoped for in England. This applies even to non-socialists and business men, the general idea being that a revolutionary Germany will be able to deal on a more equal footing with the Entente countries if the existing constitutional systems are upset.

Major Biddle Home From France. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—Major C. J. Biddle of this city, one of the famous American aces in service in France, arrived here to-night, surprising his relatives by reaching home without previous announcement.

SENATE ADOPTS REVENUE MEASURE

Continued from First Page.

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LAND, SEA AND AIR GREETING FOR FLEET

100 Aerial and 600 Harbor Craft to Welcome Fighters.

More than 100 airplanes and dirigibles and 600 harbor craft of every description will join in the official welcome to the homecoming fleet of American warships, which has been serving in European waters, when it churns its way into the harbor at 10 o'clock Thursday morning.

American flags fired into the air from floats anchored along the route, massed choruses of Boy Scouts and singing societies, the martial crashing of dozens of bands and the scream of steam whistles are a few of the features planned for the noisiest homecoming of victorious fighting craft which the city has ever known.

The fleet will arrive off the port on Christmas day, it became known yesterday through an announcement by Daniel O. Reid, chairman of the executive committee of the Mayor's Committee of Welcome to Homecoming Troops. It will not make its official appearance until the next day, however, when it will be reviewed by Secretary of the Navy Daniels from the Mayflower, the Presidential yacht, which will take up its station off the Statue of Liberty.

The harbor craft flotilla will assemble at 8 o'clock in the upper harbor. After the last warship has passed the Mayflower, the latter will start up the North River, closely followed by the police boat patrol, which will have Mayor Hylan and his committee on board. All will encircle the sea fighters after they have dropped their mudhooks off Ninety-sixth street. Immediately afterward the officers of the fleet will board the Mayflower to pay their respects to Secretary Daniels. They will return to their respective craft and the naval force which is to join in the victory parade down Fifth avenue will be landed.

Denies Influence of Election. Senator McCumber asked Senator Smith (Ga.) of the Finance Committee if the proposal for the 1920 levy had come before the Finance Committee before election day.

"It came before them immediately after the armistice," replied Senator Smith. "I do not know anything about the intimation about the election and so far as I am concerned the election had absolutely nothing to do with it."

"No one after the middle of October, when both Bulgaria and Austria-Hungary were out of the war and the Germans in full retreat, thought for a moment that the war would last for another year," responded Senator McCumber. "We knew then that the war was going to be over in less than a year, but it never occurred to us at that time that it was necessary to provide for the taxes of 1920, and it was never suggested in any form or shape until after the 6th day of November."

Senator McCumber openly accused the Democratic party with having attempted to take "political advantage" in injecting the 1920 revenue proposal in the bill.

The debate ran into a suggestion by Senator McCumber that the Democrats were trying to avoid an extra session next March in providing for the 1920 tax yield.

"I don't know anything about an extra session," said Senator Simmons. "I assume that the President is sincere about wanting revenue legislation and that the Director of Railroads is sincere in asking action on

JERSEY MAN IS DEAD IN GERMAN HOSPITAL

Wounds Prove Fatal to Corp. Beckwith of the Old Fighting 69th.

COL. DONOVAN RECOVERS Relatives of T. J. Rihlander, 2d, Reported Killed; Seek Further Information.

Corporal Charles T. Beckwith, Company I, 165th Infantry—the Old Fighting Sixty-ninth—died of wounds in a German prison camp hospital at Rastatt. An official telegram from Washington yesterday so informed his brother, Harry Beckwith, 6 Genesee avenue, Englewood, N. J. Corporal Beckwith was wounded July 28 and captured. He was 21 years old and was an employee of the New York Telephone Company. At 16 he enlisted in the Twenty-third Regiment, Brooklyn, with which he saw service on the Mexican border. Last October relatives received a letter from him in the German camp. He wrote that his wounds were still keeping him in bed and that the American Red Cross had provided him with a new suit of clothes.

The name of Lieut.-Col. William J. Donovan, one of the idols and heroes of the same regiment, appeared in yesterday's casualty list as severely wounded in action, but a despatch received by THE EVENING SUN from a staff correspondent indicated that Col. Donovan had recovered and was back with his regiment in time to march to the Rhine. He was reported walking with a limp.

Letter Relieves Worry. Col. and Mrs. Oscar Condie, 86 North Queen street, Orange, N. J., have received word that their son, Lieut. Philip H. Condie of Company H, Seventh Infantry, was wounded in action October 24. But they are not distressed by the news, having recently received a letter from the Lieutenant saying that he had recovered and rejoined his command two days after the armistice was signed.

Lieut. Harry T. Folger of Huntington, L. I., is reported slightly wounded. He was attached to the United States aviation forces. He is an alumnus of Indiana University.

Private William Ruppert, whose name appeared on yesterday's casualty

GERMANS PLAN BIG ARMY.

Scheme for People's Guard.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The German Government has accepted Field Marshal von Hindenburg's plan to form a people's guard or national army according to a Copenhagen despatch.

It is said that the German Government under this plan, will be stronger than ever. All officers have received instructions to keep the details where women will be employed for auxiliary services.

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list, died of pneumonia November 29 according to a telegram from the War Department received by his mother, Mrs. Margaret Ruppert, 614 West 135th street. Private Ruppert was drafted in September, 1917. He was in France last April with the 103d Field Artillery. In October he was his mother that he was well and happy and had been in several engagements. He was 28 years old.

Grip Fatal to Cornell Man. Lieut. Arthur Frederick Cleveland, a Cornell man who before his enlistment was an electrical engineer with the New York Central Railroad, is reported dead of pneumonia in the St. Mihiel drive, and has contracted influenza. He died October 9.

Lieut. James H. McManus, Company D, 209th Machine Gun Battalion who was wounded in action by a fragment of shell on October 17, is reported recovering in a Red Cross hospital in Paris.

Relatives of Private T. J. Gable Rihlander, 2d, son of Philip Rihlander, 18 West Forty-eighth street and a nephew of Thomas Jackson Oakley Rihlander, are still unwilling to credit the unofficial report that the young man had been killed, and are trying to obtain further information. Private Rihlander's regiment was the 107th Infantry, formerly the Seventh Regiment, New York National Guard.

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